

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method, comprising:

evaluating a queue of requests of items to be picked from a carousel based on a set of user configurable priorities;

operating a carousel based on said evaluating; ~~and~~

picking items from the carousel in response to said operating; and

filling a restocking package with said picked items [held in said carousel in response to said operating].

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said ~~filling~~ picking comprises, ~~when an item to be picked is in the carousel:~~

identifying a carousel item printer;

printing a barcode label for the item;

waiting for a barcode label scan message;

moving the carousel; and

waiting for a scan of the barcode corresponding to the item picked.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising generating an exception list for items not in the carousel.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 additionally comprising:

identifying a non-carousel item printer; and

generating a bar code for each item on said exception list.

5. (cancelled).

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said queue of requests contains requests for items to be picked for a plurality of patients ~~more than one patient~~.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said queue of requests contains requests for items to be picked for a plurality of dispensing devices ~~more than one dispensing device~~.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said queue of requests contains requests for items to be picked for a plurality of decentralized locations ~~more than one decentralized location.~~

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising checking admission, discharge, transfer and order change information for each item in the queue.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said evaluating is performed dynamically ~~based on user provided priorities.~~

11. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 10 wherein said user configurable ~~provided~~ priorities for evaluating the queue are based on the time of day.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said operating a carousel based on said evaluating-filling is paused, said method additionally comprising picking an item from the carousel on-demand during said pause.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising performing dose calculations when a request for an item in the queue is a dose and the specific dose is not present in said carousel.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising displaying a plurality of items to be picked wherein said items comprise a kit in response to an order for the kit.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising manually checking the contents of a restocking package.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising determining if an item to be picked belongs in said queue.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein said determining includes determining based on a set of fill priorities.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein said determining includes determining based on a status of the carousel.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising tracking a lot number for each item stocked into the carousel.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising determining the frequency with which an item is picked, and identifying a bin to contain the item based on said frequency.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising determining the frequency with which an item is picked, and removing said item from the carousel when the frequency falls below a predetermined value.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 additionally comprising adding said item to the carousel when the frequency is above said predetermined value.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein when an item in said queue is located in a controlled substance vault, said method additionally comprising:

sending a request to open the door of the vault.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising processing returned items.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein said processing of returned items comprises:

crediting an account for a returned item;

returning the item to the carousel; and

updating the carousel's inventory records.

26. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising a cycle counting process comprising:

presenting a bin for counting; and

accepting the count along with a the date and time.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein said cycle counting process is based on one of DEA codes and previously identified items.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein said cycle count process is initiated at scheduled times.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising generating a request for an item whenever the quantity of said item falls below a par value.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 29 wherein said par value is a dynamic value based on one of current usage and historic usage.

31. (previously presented) A method, comprising:
filling an envelop with items in a centralized storage location;
delivering said envelop to a dispensing device at a decentralized location; and
inserting said envelop into a lock-lidded, patient specific location in said dispensing device.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 31 additionally comprising scanning a bar code on said envelop to identify a patient specific location for said envelop and for updating the dispensing device's records.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 31 additionally comprising a tote containing patient specific envelops, and wherein said inserting includes placing said tote into the dispensing device.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 33 wherein said tote contains a chip having information about the contents of said tote, said method additionally comprising dispensing from said tote, and modifying the information in said chip in response to said dispensing.

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein said centralized location includes an automation device, said method additionally comprising returning said tote to said centralized location, and connecting said tote to said automation device, said automation device accessing said information in said chip.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 31 additionally comprising tracking delivery times of said envelops.

37. (currently amended) A method, comprising:
filling a restocking package with items in a centralized storage location;
loading a plurality of restocking packages into a cart deviee;
delivering the cart deviee containing the plurality of restocking packages to a dispensing device at a decentralized location; and
connecting said cart deviee carrying said a plurality of restocking packages to the dispensing device.

38. (cancelled)

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 ~~38~~ wherein said cart contains a chip having information about the contents of said cart, said method additionally comprising dispensing from said cart, and modifying the information in said chip in response to said dispensing.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 39 wherein said centralized location includes an automation device, said method additionally comprising returning said cart to said centralized location, and connecting said cart to said automation device, said automation device accessing said information in said chip.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 37 additionally comprising tracking delivery times of restocking packages.